The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1947 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 31

Are You
REGISTERED?

International Labor Committee Formed To Combat Communist Attacks on ERP

London.—The International Trade Union Conference on the European Recovery Program laid the groundwork for an aggressive international labor organization to counter Communist attacks on the U. S. sponsored Marshall Plan.

Delegates from 16 nations voted to establish an office in Paris to work with the Organization for European Economic Cooperation.

Playing a major role in this new development were David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, who represented the American Federation of Labor at the international labor parley.

The action of the conference, American delegates said, provided the nucleus of an American-Western European front against the Communist-controlled labor organizations in Europe. They predicted the move would hasten the dissolution of the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

The new central labor committee will, in the words of the resolution adopted by the conference here, "give guidance to national centers in the mobilization and coordination of their activities" in support of the European Recovery Program.

In addition, the committee is expected to take the lead in an aggressive campaign to counteract Communist propaganda and sabotage against the Marshall Plan.

The committee will be headed by Leon Jouhaux, head of the French labor organization, Force Ouvriere, which broke away from the Communist-controlled General Confederation of Labor. He will be assisted by Vincent Tewson, secretary of the British Trade Union Congress, and Evert Kupers of The Netherlands.

Britain's powerful Trades Union Congress, which fathered the WFTU, was brought around to pledging active support of the new central committee. After the British indicated they would side with the Americans, other European labor organizations subscribed to the program.

Britain and the others will remain in the WFTU for the present, it was explained, but the Americans predicted that the body would lose influence and support rapidly when the central committee began functioning.

AFL Invited to Participate In Asian Labor Federation

Washington.—Representatives of the Preparatory Commission for the newly organized Asian Federation of Labor extended an official invitation to the AFL to send a fraternal delegate to the first conference of the federation to be held next year in China.

The invitation was proffered by Deven Sen, organization secretary of the Indian National Trades Union Congress, and G. L. Mapara, general council member of the Indian TUC, during conferences with AFL President William Green and Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's International Relations Committee, on the trade union situation in the Asiatic countries.

Mr. Sen also urged that the AFL assist the new Asian federation by sending a special envoy to assist the committee in its organizational work throughout Asia.

The invitation to participate in the formation of the Asian labor group will be discussed further at a forthcoming meeting of the AFL international relations committee.

Meanwhile, both President Green and Mr. Woll assured the visiting labor leaders of the "great concern of the American Federation of Labor for the strengthening of free trade unionism in Asia as well as in other parts of the world, and reiterated strongly the AFL policy of encouraging and assisting efforts in such direction whenever they are prompted by bona-fide, free and democratic trade union organizations."

The Preparatory Committee for the Asian Federation of Labor was formed last month in San Francisco by a group of Asiatic worker delegates and advisers who were attending the International Labor Conference. Nations represented included China, Burma, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Mr. Sen is secretary of the committee.

Jewell Defines Labor's Role In ERP In Address Before Congress of ITWF

Washington.—The part that workers in America will play in the European recovery program was clearly defined before the Congress of the International Transport Workers Federation in Oslo, Norway.

The speakers were Bert M. Jewell and Clinton S. Golden, top-level labor advisors to Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator. They emphasized that they did not appear as representatives of particular groups of American unions, but of all of the more than 15,000,000 organized workers of the United States.

Jewell, former president of the AFL's Railway Employees' Department, declared:

"Clinton Golden and I were selected by the three great union groups of the United States, totaling 15,000,000 members, for appointment as labor advisors on the Economic Cooperation Administration. We are the visible evidence of the support and cooperation of all the American trade unions in this great joint effort for world peace. Labor's participation in this great enterprise, both at home in America and in each of the cooperating countries, has recently been defined in the labor policy statement by the Administrator, Paul G. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman says: "Labor has a vital part to play in the European Recovery Program and will be given full opportunity to participate through non-Communist labor organizations both here and abroad.

"My awareness of the valuable contribution labor can make toward success of the ERP is evident from the appointment to my staff, as top labor advisors of equal rank of Mr. Golden, and Mr. Jewell. It is my intention to appoint other competent leaders in the labor movements as advisors to the chiefs of ECA missions in the participating countries in Europe.

"They will assist me in (1) the formulation of policies, (2) the selection of competent personnel to serve as labor advisors to ECA country missions, (3) maintaining continuing liaison between ECA and American labor organizations, and (4) in solving economic, social, technical and other problems affecting the European workers and their trade unions.

Members of ILGWU Unit Receive Pay For Unemployment In 12-Month Period

Philadelphia.—Material proof of the value of progressive leadership supported by a united membership was strikingly evidenced this week with release by the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board of the annual report of the Fair Income Fund.

The report showed a total of $366,164.72 was paid to the joint board's 12,000 members from July 1, 1947 to June 30, 1948, to supplement their unemployment compensation during periods of unemployment.

The Fair Income Fund is maintained by contributions of 3½ percent of their payrolls by the city's employers and administered by a board comprised of union and management representatives with Dr. George W. Taylor, impartial chairman of the industry, as chairman. The fund was established because of the insistence of Manager Samuel Otto and the union on protecting the membership in periods of greatest need.

The total distributed during the year comprised 11,773 checks averaging $31.10 each. In the last six months period of the year, 5,687 checks, averaging $31.16 and totaling $177,178.56 were distributed.

For every four weeks of unemployment, which need not be consecutive, a member in good standing will receive a sum equal to 70 percent of an average week's hourly earnings. Such payments are limited to four checks a year with a maximum limit of $40 to each check.

FARM LABOR'S WAGES TRIPLE PREWAR RATE

Washington.—Farm laborers are earning more than 3 times as much as they did before the war, the Agriculture Department reports. Daily wage rates, without board, averaged $5.40 on July 1, compared with $5.17 last year and the 1935-1939 average of $1.53. Monthly pay, with board, averaged $105 on July 1, the first time the monthly figure rose above $100.

AFL GLASS WORKERS VOTE UNION SHOP 15,931 TO 551

Pittsburgh.—AFL employes of the American Flint Glass Company in 8 states voted 15,931 to 551 in favor of union shop proposals this month, the National Labor Relations Board announced. The voting employes are production workers at 60 pressed and blown glassware plants in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York, New Jersey and California.

Physical Volume of Construction In '48 Lags Behind Likely Record Dollar Value

Washington.—The physical volume of construction in 1948 will fall short of previous record years, although dollar value of new structures is expected to set an all-time record of $18,000,000,000, the Departments of Commerce and Labor declared.

The forecast was made in a revision of earlier estimates that building construction for this year would not exceed a $15,000,000,000 valuation, with employment running at about 2,150,000 workers.

In the new estimates, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted that construction employment would hit its peak in September when nearly 2,400,000 workers will be on the job.

Explaining the need for an upward revision in the dollar valuation estimate, the BLS release asserted the 12 percent boost was necessary "primarily because the expenditures for new residential construction have been advancing more rapidly than anticipated. This larger dollar volume reflects the unexpected predominance of higher-priced housing thus far this year over homes for moderate and low-income families."

The unprecedented dollar volume of new construction expected for this year will exceed 1947 expenditures by slightly over $4,000,000,000, or 29 percent. By contrast, physical volume in 1948 (dollar volume expressed in 1939 prices) probably will be only 15 percent above last year's performance, but about 20 percent below the wartime high in 1942. In other words, the purchasing power of the construction dollar has declined until the amount of work estimated to cost $18,000,000,000 today could have been done in 1939 for around $8,500,000,000.

Remaining unchanged is the bureau's earlier estimate of 950,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units to be started with private funds in 1948. The number of publicly financed units, however, is now expected not to exceed 7,500, compared with 20,000 anticipated previously. Adjustment of the bureau's public housing estimate follows the failure of federal housing legislation to materialize earlier in the year.

The current estimates assume that prices will continue to rise gradually during the balance of 1948, with average prices for the year from 10 to 15 percent above 1947. It assumes also that no major business recession or important work stoppages affecting construction will occur this year. In considering the influence of defense preparations on construction activity during the next six months, allowance was made only for sums already appropriated and contracts authorized.

AFL Farm Union Head Urges U. S. Action To Control Import of Foreign Workers

Washington.—H. L. Mitchell, president of the AFL's National Farm Labor Union, called for tightened federal controls over the importation of foreign agricultural workers.

Thousands of Mexicans are crossing the border illegally to work in Texas, Arizona, and California at wages that undercut American farm laborers, he declared.

Even those legally imported were being exploited, he testified at a Senate judiciary subcommittee hearing conducted by staff counsel to obtain the immigration views of private organizations.

Mr. Mitchell said that his union was "opposed to foreign workers being brought into the United States, legally or illegally, when there are native Americans unemployed and available for work."

If proper arrangements were made for seasonal movement of unemployed American workers to areas where they were needed, he said, it would be unnecessary to import any foreign farm labor.

He recommended amendments of the present laws to provide that "no foreign workers will be permitted to enter the United States for the purpose of reducing American working standards."

He suggested that before a government agency permitted the importation of foreign workers for agriculture or industry, it be required to obtain the approval of a committee of representative employers and workers who would be affected.

Mr. Mitchell also urged the plugging of a legal "loop-hole" to make persons employing aliens illegally in the United States subject to stiff penalties. At the request of the committee he agreed to furnish the names of firms he thought should be inspected to see whether they were harboring and employing illegal Mexican immigrants.

He expressed hope that the committee would conduct on the spot hearings in El Paso and San Antonio, Texas; Phoenix, Ariz., and in California to check on illegal border crossings.

Mitchell said the "finance farm interest" wanted a surplus of farm workers and were interested in securing, legally or illegally, Mexican workers, who "may be exploited through low wages and bad working and living conditions."

NLRB REJECTS EXTENSION OF ITS JURISDICTION

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board rebuffed its general counsel, Robert N. Denham, when it threw out an election petition on the grounds that the employer's operations had an "insubstantial" effect on interstate commerce.

The case involved the AFL's Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers which sought a bargaining election among employes of the National Tool Company of Brockton, Mass.

The decision represented another round in the fight between the board and Denham over the extent of the board's jurisdiction under the Taft-Hartley law. Denham contends that the act gives the board power over almost all business and industry.

BAKERY UNION COUNCIL MEETS

New York.—The New York State Council of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union of America, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, adopted resolutions urging restoration of price controls, elimination of night work, repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, a uniform baker's wage scale in the state and lifting the arms embargo.

BROAD INSURANCE PLAN WON BY AFL LOCAL UNION

Chicago.—Local 62 of the AFL's Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Workers Union announced the establishment of an insurance plan for its salesman members employed by the Illinois Wholesale Liquor Dealers.

The plan, which is paid for by the employers, includes life, accident, and health insurance programs designed to afford maximum protection for the employes and their families. Under the health aspects of the plan, medical expenses, hospital bills, and maternity benefits are included as well as weekly payments in the event of sickness or accident.

AFL MUSICIANS' UNION OFFERS FREE CONCERTS

Philadelphia.—Free musical entertainment will be provided for shut-ins living in four institutions here by the AFL's Musicians Union, Local 77 and the Philadelphia Recreation Association, George T. Adams, executive secretary of the association announced.

New York State Federation Moves to Lick Foes at Polls

Meany Blasts Antilabor Foes In All Parties; Calls for Big Vote

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN

New York.—The 85th annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor, bulwarked by the largest number of delegates ever to attend its sessions, opened here in a mood of implacable determination to lick every reactionary Congressman seeking election in the state.

Taking as his keynote the convention slogan, "Vote November 2 to preserve the freedom for all who labor," George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, lashed out bitterly at Republicans and Democrats in Congress who passed the Taft-Hartley law, ignored the high cost of living and imposed an inequitable tax law.

"Your very first job," Meany told the delegates, "is to get your members out to vote. In 1946, more than 40,000,000 Americans eligible to vote failed to vote. We are convinced that a substantial portion of those were trade union members or in families of trade unionists.

"Your second job is to remember that you must vote as trade unionists whether you are registered Republican or Democratic or anything else; that we will not cast a vote for any candidate unless we feel that that person will follow the ideals and the principles of the American labor movement.

"If these ideals fall by the wayside, America falls by the wayside as a world power and world peace goes down the drain."

The convention also heard addresses by Francis Cardinal Spellman, archbishop of New York; Mayor William O'Dwyer; Charles J. MacGowan, president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, and Thomas Murray, president New York State Federation of Labor.

Introduced by Martin T. Lacey, president of the New York Central Trades Council and chairman of the convention's arrangements committee, Cardinal Spellman declared:

"America's prosperity and happiness can be attained only through the full cooperation between labor and capital with full employment and fair wages. Yet millions of people are being taught and tricked into believing that the benefits of security fall like manna from Heaven. I beg those people who are being thus deceived that they cease to be terrified, stunned or confused by Communists or Communist-inspired agitators, who with sharp sickle-strokes seek to murder democracy, stifle free enterprise and destroy world peace.

"In fair collective bargaining rests America's greatest hope for future peaceful labor relations, but in its processes men must guard themselves against selfish, domineering minority groups opposed to our democratic form of government, groups that refuse to solve their problems through this just device and use strikes as smokescreens to wage political war against America."

In his address, Meany warned that "the trade union movement must be a dynamic movement or it dies. A feeling of complacency is dangerous to a movement such as ours. We need eternal vigilance."

Meany urged the delegates not to permit "anyone to make a political football out of the New York State Federation of Labor. Remember trade unions are bread and butter organizations. One reason for our existence is to better the condition of those who work for wages. The issues between major political parties are fictitious. The secret issue is the in's want to stay in and the out's want to get in."

"What's our answer?" asked Meany. "Should we tie up the AFL to a political party? The Democratic Party? What of that 115 Democrats who put on labor the cross in the form of the Taft-Hartley law? What about that part of the Democratic Party which bases human values on the color of a man's skin? Tie up with Wallace and go along with those who believe in the barbaric philosophy of Moscow? Tie up with the Republican Party because some people think that the Republican presidential candidate would repeal the obnoxious sections of the Taft-Hartley law? I haven't heard the Republican candidate say anything about the Taft-Hartley law."

Mayor O'Dwyer, who got a long ovation from the assemblage, attacked the 80th Congress for listening to the real estate lobby and blocking housing legislation, which took "a sledge hammer and hit labor, sowing contempt for labor by the Taft-Hartley law and even worse contempt by asking for another term to do to you God knows what."

State AFL President Murray declared:

"We shall defeat at the polls every member of the 80th Congress irrespective of party affiliation who voted for enactment of the Taft-Hartley law. We have consecrated ourselves to this task and we will keep at it until complete victory is ours. We will fill the halls of Congress with Representatives who know, understand and give consideration to the aims and aspirations of the American worker."

Green Says Congress Must Take Blame For Inaction on Price, Housing Issues

New York.—Predicting that the special session of Congress "will produce a blank so far as legislative achievements are concerned," AFL President William Green declared that American voters will place the responsibility for inaction where it belongs, "upon the leaders of the 80th Congress."

Speaking before the 85th annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor, the AFL leader charged that congressional leaders, motivated by politics, have ignored President Truman's "straight-forward" request for legislation to halt inflation, provide housing facilities for low-income families, and to repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

Asserting that the politics charge which is being hurled at Mr. Truman by his opponents "clearly applies with far greater force against the leaders of the 80th Congress," Mr. Green said:

"I challenge Senator Taft and his colleagues in the Senate to deny that they deliberately instigated the present filibuster in the Senate over poll-tax legislation as a political maneuver to block action on necessary legislation and to force adjournment of the special session without accomplishing a single constructive advance."

"That is the kind of evil politics which will boomerang against its perpetrators. The American voters will not be hoodwinked by such obvious political trickery."

Mr. Green ridiculed another argument advanced by leaders of the Congress that no emergency existed to justify a special session. Singling out the issue of the rising cost of living, he inquired:

"What constitutes an emergency? Is it justifiable and normal for prices to keep going up at a rate which is robbing every worker in the nation of his hard-earned wages and driving housewives to distraction? Can we afford to let the evil effects of inflation continue indefinitely? Can we take the risk of an eventual crash which would cause a price collapse, throw millions of workers out of jobs, close up factories and bankrupt farmers? Are we going to permit the leaders of the 80th Congress whose sole interest is to protect the freedom of big business to charge American consumers all the traffic will bear, to drive us into another Hoover depression with their do-nothing policies?

"These are questions which every American voter should consider carefully and answer emphatically with his or her vote on Election Day."

Mr. Green urged delegates to the convention to actively support Labor's League for Political Education in its drive to bring about the election of congressional candidates pledged to repeal the vicious Taft-Hartley law. Predicting that labor can obtain "a real mandate from the American people," he said:

"We can accomplish that great goal if we work for it—and work hard. We must see to it that every member of our unions registers so that he can qualify to vote and that all members of his family of voting age also register. Then, during the election campaign, we must keep hammering home the issues to the people we represent so that they will not be misled by the false propaganda of the reactionaries who would like to see organized labor destroyed and all economic and social progress wiped out. Finally, we must make certain that the workers in our home communities throughout the nation go to the polls on Election Day and cast their ballots."

National Airlines Refuses To Accept Board's Report

Washington.—An irresponsible, labor-hating employer, National Airlines, Inc., refused to accept the recommendations of a Presidential Emergency Board for settling a dispute with its striking pilots who are members of the AFL's Airline Pilots Association.

G. T. Baker, president of the corporation, informed the National Mediation Board that it was "impossible" for the company to accept the findings of the special board that had found the carrier guilty of violation of the Railway Labor Act and had recommended the rehiring of employes out on strike.

The strike by the carrier's pilots began in February after the failure of negotiations in a dispute that began in September, 1945, with the discharge of a pilot.

The pilots are continuing the strike and have filed a complaint with the Civil Aeronautics Board designed to bring about the revocation of National's charter.

A week after the strike began the line replaced pilots with nonunion employes on the ground that the former had refused to work and that their dismissals were valid. The union contended that the pilots were engaged in a legitimate work stoppage under the Railway Labor Act.

Employes represented by the International Association of Machinists, an independent union, also went out on strike shortly before the pilots, but the company accepted the Emergency Board's recommendations in this case and settled the strike last week.

The Emergency Board recommended the rehiring of all employes, pilots as well as clerical and mechanical, who engaged in the dispute with the company.

In its report on the case, the board declared:

"The story revealed by the evidence is one of disregard for statutory and contractual obligations on the part of the carrier. It indicates an immaturity and lack of responsibility which is not consistent with the duties imposed by Congress upon carriers in interstate commerce."

Green Cautions Against Court Action To Get Back Pay Under Overtime Ruling

Washington.—AFL President William Green, in a letter to all affiliated national and international unions clarifying the issues raised by the recent Supreme Court "Overtime-on-overtime" decision in a case involving longshoremen, urged that AFL affiliates refrain from filing court claims for back wages which may be due as a result of the decision.

Declaring that "only in a few cases will the Supreme Court decision affect existing overtime practices," Mr. Green said:

"It would seem particularly wise to avoid taking the matter before the courts and to work out instead, where necessary, whatever collective bargaining arrangements seem desirable."

The AFL leader warned that antilabor forces may seize upon the court decision as an excuse to tear down the standards which have been maintained for many years under the Fair Labor Standards Act. He said:

"At the present time, management interests are supporting the Goodwin-Wiley bill which was introduced in the closing days of the last session of Congress. This bill purports to restore the conditions which existed before the Supreme Court decision, but would actually go much further and establish conditions under which unscrupulous employers might evade basic requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Mr. Green said that an interpretation issued by the Department of Labor has dispelled most of the union and management fears concerning application of the court's decision.

"Most collective bargaining contracts with clauses concerning premium pay for Saturday, Sunday, or holiday work," he said, "will not have to be modified if the parties wish to continue existing practices."

The basic question in the longshore case was whether the "overtime" rates set forth in the contract between the East Coast longshore industry and the International Longshoremen's Association constituted an "overtime" payment under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The court decision in favor of the employes immediately created a certain amount of confusion among unions and managements since they did not know to what extent the decision should be applied to their particular collective bargaining situation.

JOB RIGHTS OF EX-GIs SECURE UNDER OLD LAW

Washington.—Job rights of World War II veterans released from the service prior to June 24, 1948, are not affected by reemployment provisions of the new Selective Service Act but are protected by the older acts which remain in effect, Robert K. Salyers, director of the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, U. S. Department of Labor, stated.

"It has come to our attention during the past month that veterans have postponed taking up their reemployment rights problems with this bureau because of uncertainty as to whether such rights continue or what assistance would be available to them after passage of the new draft act," Salyers said.

Although the bureau's field staff has been reorganized and the number of field offices reduced, assistance to World War II veterans remains its primary responsibility.

Prompt submission of cases to the proper field office will expedite settlement, thus preventing further loss to the veteran and difficulty for the employer, Salyers pointed out.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

LABOR DAY SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal
Taft-Hartley Law

LABOR DAY, 1948

By GEORGE MEANY

Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

In the early years of the American Federation of Labor, labor's holiday was regarded primarily as a day on which it was fitting to give serious thought to the problems confronting the millions who work in order to live. The true meaning of Labor Day was never overlooked.

In recent years there has been a tendency to forget the real significance of Labor Day and to use it for purposes of recreation or pleasure exclusively. It would be entirely fitting if, on this Labor Day of 1948, we who toil for a living were to observe the holiday in the older way. For surely it must be clear that organized labor today is face to face with situations which are as grave as any that bedeviled our predecessors.

GEORGE MEANY

This statement may seem rather sweeping, but it is no overstatement. Quite the contrary. Today our movement, whose development has meant so much to our country in her rise to pre-eminence among the nations of the world, faces the threat of destruction. There are always those who are loath to admit unpleasant facts, and there are those who question whether the enemies of labor are actually seeking to destroy us. But the handwriting is on the wall, and those who will take the trouble to read it must see that the goal of labor's foes is the annihilation of the organized labor movement as it has existed on the soil of free America.

Already, although their power is still far less than they expect it to be a little later on, the reactionaries of Big Business and Big Politics have lamed the working people of America with oppressive anti-labor legislation. They have put over not only the Taft-Hartley Act but state laws that also cripple the wage-earner. Let us not lose sight of the fact that the reactionaries have been having a field day in the past three years in a number of state legislatures, with the result that today hostile state laws, of varying degrees of severity, are operative in more than half the states of the Union.

The injuries inflicted upon the tens of millions of average wage-earning citizens since the end of World War II have been dealt out to us by the reactionaries of business and politics whose grip on federal and state lawmaking bodies is not yet complete. There are quite a few items on their program for the American labor movement which they are keeping veiled for the present. While for the most part the National Association of Manufacturers and its unholy agents and allies have done a good job of guarding the secrets of their future warfare against organized labor, enough has leaked out to make clear that labor's enemies have in store new measures so drastic as to make even the Taft-Hartley Act look mild by contrast.

Yes, American labor does have serious matters to consider on this Labor Day. To my mind, the most serious problem of all is one that must be of concern not only to workers but to all other Americans who believe—really and truly believe, in their hearts—that the free American way of life is the best way of life to be found on our planet.

Our American way of life is indeed the best ever devised by the minds of men, and it is the best not simply because we have the most telephones and automobiles and bathtubs and skyscrapers. There is much more to it than that. The American way of life is best for various reasons and in various ways, but the most important point about America is that we have been free from the blight of what is often termed "the class struggle."

The nations of Europe know what the class struggle means. The class struggle has been going on over there for decades. It is one of the sad facts of European life.

American labor, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, has always rejected the concept of the class struggle. We have never been out to destroy the employers. On the contrary, we have always recognized and defended the legitimate rights of employers. No stauncher defenders of our American free enterprise system exist than the 7,500,000 American working men and women who make up the American Federation of Labor. We have asked and fought for recognition of labor's rights. We have asked and fought for economic justice. But we have always recognized that decent, fair employers were fully entitled to decent, fair treatment at labor's hands.

Where the class struggle idea calls for "war to the death" between employers on the one side and workers on the other side, our idea in the American labor movement has been "live and let live." In the past 100 years, millions of people left Europe and came to America because they were sick of the class struggle. No one circumstance has contributed more directly or more vitally to the phenomenal rise of our nation than the absence of the ruinous class struggle. America has grown mighty and it has prospered, and none have prospered more than the employers of the nation.

And yet today the National Association of Manufacturers and certain legislators have permitted their hatred of organized labor to blind them to this fundamental fact. Like the totalitarians of the Left, but without the same deliberate planning and awareness of what they are doing, the controlling clique of the NAM and their federal and state legislative cohorts have been taking steps to bring the nation ever closer to the precipice of the class struggle.

American labor has always refused to believe that this deadly disease will ever catch hold here. We have never wanted it. We do not want it now. The class struggle is an evil thing, as the tragic experiences of other peoples, in other lands, have amply shown.

But the NAM and other reactionaries who are driving to bring about a condition in which the emergence of the class struggle concept would be inevitable even in democratic America had better stop and reflect for a moment—if they can spare that much time from their plottings against working men and women.

Let them ponder and ponder well that, if there is going to be a class struggle in America, it can have only one result, only one outcome—not the crushing of labor, as they desire, but the utter defeat of the initiators of the struggle, the powerful reactionary wing of Big Business.

Despite the menace which we face today, I am confident that we can soon again move forward on the road to a better day for America's workers. The past record of the American Federation of Labor indicates beyond question that strong opposition will bring out even stronger labor's will to progress.

For Labor Day Editions:

Labor Movement Seen As Instrument For Promotion of Economic Justice

New York.—"The churches have been right in giving encouragement to the development of the labor movement, both as an instrument for the securing of greater economic justice and as a source of both dignity and morale for workers," affirms the 24th annual Labor Sunday Message of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

The message, issued by the council's Department of the Church and Economic Life, declares that "the worker must never be treated as a commodity but always as a person, whose well-being depends in large part upon the rewards and conditions of his labor."

Recognizing the growth of large-scale enterprise and technological developments, and the consequent integration of control and large-scale financing, the statement declares that these changes "have made it increasingly clear to men that they are helpless in coping individually with major economic forces around them. Joint action for mutual aid and protection has become an imperative necessity to those who depend on their labor for a living."

The message suggests principles and objectives for guidance for Christians in economic life, including:

1. A minimum standard of living sufficient for health, cultural growth, and protection against hardships beyond one's control.
2. Equal opportunities available to all children and youth to develop their capacities.
3. The moral right and duty of every ablebodied man and woman to serve the community through work under conditions that assure fair compensation or in other ways.
4. The moral right of all persons regardless of race, creed, color or sex to take a vigorous part in political and economic group activities which hold the greatest promise for the realization of Christian objectives.
5. Concentration on the encouragement of all processes of reconciliation where labor and management are separated on specific issues.
6. A national policy judged by its consequences for the lives of people in all lands and by its effect upon the economic basis for a peaceful world.

Stating that although under the laws of men resources of the earth become property, the message declares that "every form of human ownership or control of use of property is a trust with responsibility to God and one's fellow men." It adds, "Christians who share in the control of economic power, whether in management or as representatives of organized labor, have a special responsibility to direct economic forces toward service to the whole society."

Labor Day Over The Years

Pictured above is the throng of 125,000 persons which jammed Soldier Field in Chicago last year for the mammoth Labor Day celebration sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor and addressed by AFL President William Green. Scenes like this will be the rule on Labor Day, 1948, when crowds gather across the nation to celebrate labor's own holiday and to pledge a ceaseless fight against antilabor forces in the political campaign.

FIRST LABOR DAY PARADE, SEPT. 5, 1882, NEW YORK CITY *From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of Sept. 16, 1882*

Forerunner by 65 years of the spectacular Chicago Labor Day observance, was the first Labor Day parade which took place in New York City on September 5, 1882. On that day, the dream of Peter J. McGuire a union carpenter who first suggested that laborers should have their own special holiday, became a reality. The idea caught on and, pressed by labor unions, state after state declared the first Monday in September a holiday. Finally, a dozen years later, in 1894, the Congress of the United States, responding to the demands of the American people, made Labor Day a national public holiday to honor the working people of the nation.

Gompers' Editorial Shows Significance of Labor Day

Over the years since 1882 much has been said concerning the significance of Labor Day. One of the best statements was made by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in the following editorial written 46 years ago for the American Federationist. While the reference to the 19th Century is remote, Gompers' remarks are timeless in point.

No day in the calendar is a greater fixture, one which is more truly regarded as a real holiday, or one which is so surely destined to endure for all time, than the first Monday in September of each recurring year, Labor Day.

Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year of any country. All other holidays are in, a more or less degree, connected with conflicts and battles, of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed or power, of glories achieved by one nation over another.

Labor Day, on the other hand, marks a new epoch in the annals of human history. It is at once a manifestation of reverence for the struggles of the masses against tyranny and injustice from time immemorial; an impetus to battle for the right in our day for the men, women and children of our time and gives hope and encouragement for the attainment of the aspirations for the future of the human family.

It is devoted to no man, living or dead; to no sect, sex, race or nation. It is founded upon the highest principles of humanity, is as broad in its scope as the universe.

It was not given to but conquered by labor, and established as a holiday before any legislature, state or national, enacted it into law.

The marching toilers in the Labor Day demonstrations signalize no martial glory, brutal domination, conquests or warlike pomp. They are, in their essence, the manifestations of the growing intelligence of the workers who recognize that peace is as essential to successful industry and real progress as air is to lung-breathing animals; that justice to the toilers has too long been denied; that in the midst of the civilization at the close of the 19th Century, wrongs too gross, widespread and well known to require mention here, still abound; that if man is to be free in the time to come, eternal vigilance must be exercised, organization of the workers proclaimed, maintained and extended; education of the educated as well as of the masses be furthered and nurtured, and agitation of labor's wrongs endured and rights denied undertaken, with all the zest and energy begotten by devotion to a cause which is at once holy, noble, pure, lofty, just, wise and humane.

GREEN TO ADDRESS AKRON LABOR RALLY

Washington.—AFL President William Green will deliver the principal address at a Labor Day outdoor mass metting in Summit Beach Park, Akron, Ohio.

Thousands of AFL members, their families, and friends are expected to attend the celebration which is being sponsored jointly by the AFL's Central Labor Union in Akron and the Tri-County Building Trades Council.

Mr. Green's address will be broadcast over a nationwide radio network. The time of the broadcast and the network over which it will be carried will be announced when final plans have been completed.

Labor Day Editions:

Voting First Duty Of All Americans, Says LLPE Head

By JOSEPH D. KEENAN

Director, Labor's League for Political Education

Labor Day in 1948 is a good day to think about election day, November 2.

The greatest service union members can do to make the November 2 elections count the most in advancing peace and prosperity is to see that they all register, that all the members of their families are registered and especially that all their women relatives are registered—and then all vote on November 2.

In countries like Britain, Italy and France and the Scandinavian countries we find between 80 and 93 percent of the voters casting their ballots in general elections.

In 1946 over 50,000,000 American voters who were able to vote did not vote. More than one-half of the possible voters stayed away from the polls.

As a result we have a Congress that refused to act on the housing problem, that attacked the Social Security system, that passed the Taft-Hartley Act to destroy organized labor, and that refused to increase the minimum wage above 40 cents an hour. The same Congress voted to exempt the rich from paying their fair share of the cost of the war. The same Congress did what it could to promote inflation and to lower the purchasing value of the American dollar.

Consequently, the first duty of all union men and women and their relatives is to vote. The second duty is to drive out of public life the men who have demonstrated on roll call after roll call that they have a decidedly unfriendly feeling toward the farmer the worker, and the veteran. It is safe to say that the present Congress has shown no interest whatever in about 90 percent of the population. It has used all its efforts to increase the welfare of the top 10 percent which was doing very nicely without the additional help.

Frankly, cleaning out the present Congress is a patriotic duty. If the same individuals are returned to office it is almost certain that they will bring to pass the number one wish of every Communist—an American depression that will shake the world, weaken the U. S. A. and make Russia the world's strongest power.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Federation of Labor

On this Labor Day I appeal to the nation's workers to do a little serious thinking about their own future, the future of our country and the future peace of the world.

To a great extent the power to shape that future lies in the hands of the millions of wage earners who constitute our trade union movement.

Today a dangerous tide has set in. Our economic welfare is threatened by inflation, our basic freedoms are endangered by reactionary forces and our social well-being is being undermined by inaction.

WILLIAM GREEN

Against these perils, you, the workers of our land, possess an invincible weapon—the right to vote. This is a national election year. The citizens of the United States will have an opportunity to elect a President of the United States and almost an entirely new Congress.

Therefore, let the keynote of all our Labor Day celebrations this year be: "USE YOUR VOTE."

Why this urgency? The facts are clear.

The 80th Congress enacted over a presidential veto the Taft-Hartley bill, which is aimed at destroying the trade union movement and tearing down the high standards that the unions have created for America.

The 80th Congress swept aside all the economic protections of our people against inflation and has since refused to lift a finger to halt skyrocketing prices. The brutal and unjustified increase in the cost of living is robbing every worker and his family of his hard-earned wages.

The 80th Congress has done nothing to bring about an effective, low-cost housing program, despite the emergency need for millions of new homes. It has frozen the minimum wage level at 40 cents an hour—$16 a week for 40 hours of work—a starvation standard. It has shamefully neglected the welfare of elderly, retired workers, now forced to subsist on Social Security benefits averaging less than $25 a month. It has callously disregarded the health of the nation and its children by refusing to give consideration to the enactment of a national health insurance program.

The foregoing indictment should be sufficient to arouse the American voters to demand and obtain a housecleaning of Congress at the coming elections. The 80th Congress, while ignoring human needs, has responded willingly and promptly to every demand of big business. It has hamstrung labor unions, at the behest of the National Association of Manufacturers. It has adopted tax reduction legislation which offers only minor savings to low-income families, but provides huge savings to the wealthy.

For these reasons, big business is going to bat for the members of the 80th Congress who did its bidding. The voters will be flooded with propaganda praising the legislative record. Money talks in politics, and this year the big money will be talking on the side of anti-labor Congressmen and Senators.

But in America, even the power of money cannot overcome the indignation of a free people. Remember the 80th Congress was elected by only one-third of the qualified voters of the country. The hosts of labor who stayed away from the polls in that 1946 election helped to elect reactionary lawmakers by not voting.

This must be changed in 1948. No union member can be a good union member unless he is a loyal American first. No American citizen can be a good citizen unless he votes.

It is imperative that every union member in our ranks registers and votes in the 1948 election. His duty goes even beyond that. He should see to it that every member of his family of voting age and all his friends, likewise, register and vote.

Remember the slogan: "Use Your Vote!"

From a long-range standpoint, the peace of the world depends upon the power of America to safeguard the peace. America must remain strong. To keep strong, our country must remain politically free and economically healthy. The policies instituted by the 80th Congress are sapping the economic strength of our nation and depriving millions of citizens organized in the trade union movement of basic freedoms. Those policies must be reversed.

For Labor Day Editions:

Labor Department Holiday Message Pays Tribute to American Workers

The following is the full text of the special Labor Day statement prepared and issued by the U. S. Department of Labor:

On this Labor Day, September 6, the nation has more workers and more of them at work than ever before, producing more goods and buying more goods.

Most of the factory, mine, mill, transport and communications workers in the nation's 64,000,000 labor force and millions of those in trade and service are combined in unions to raise organized labor's strength beyond 15,500,000 members, another historic high point.

They have good reason to gather with their families and friends on Labor Day to add up the past year's gains and losses, and prepare for tasks and responsibilities of the future. And they will find some serious losses to be repaired, as well as important gains to be counted.

Labor Day was founded 66 years ago as labor's own holiday. But, its founder, Peter J. McGuire, had a broader purpose in mind for he hoped Labor Day would eventually become "an occasion devoted to the industrial spirit, the great vital force of every nation."

Labor Day is now a national holiday, observed generally by all of the people. It is a time devoted to the industrial spirit, as McGuire had hoped, because it is a day on which tribute is paid to the workers for the contributions they have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

No greater tribute could be paid to the workers of the United States than to give them the credit that is due them for the part they have played in creating the industrial spirit which helped win two World Wars and, at the conclusion of World War II, placed us in a position of leadership for the establishment of world peace.

It is noteworthy that labor was one of the first groups to advocate international cooperation and support the European Recovery Program.

The program that labor has espoused is one of progress and betterment. It is dedicated to the ideal of human rights and welfare; to the cooperation of the various economic groups in our country for the good of all.

In almost every aspect of our community and national life we may find, if we want to see them, the great contributions which the vital force of labor have made to the general welfare. No other segment of our society has contributed more.

The vital force of labor is responsible for our high standard of living. It has brought us ever closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy.

These are the real measure of our industrial spirit, the ingredients of which our great vital force as a nation is compounded. They have been achieved through the democratic process of free collective bargaining, the means by which workers won a full partnership in our free, competitive economy.

But the fact remains that the passage of state and federal legislation restricting labor's hard-won rights and striking at the very foundations of free collective bargaining, leaves the future welfare of the workers on dangerous quicksands.

The antilabor forces, having gained the upperhand, are pressing their advantage. An attempt has been made to reduce labor's voice in the government to a whisper. The U. S. Department of Labor's appropriations have been cut and important manpower and industrial relations functions taken away.

Nothing has been done effectively to curb inflation. Social security benefits have not been increased to meet the cost of living or extended to millions of workers not now covered.

If the industrial spirit is the vital force of our nation, the workers cannot help but question and doubt the present course which these antilabor forces have charted for the nation because it cannot strengthen the vital force, but only weaken it.

Labor Day is the logical time for pulling ourselves up short, replotting our course and pointing ourselves once more in the direction of freedom—free institutions, free collective bargaining and a free, competitive economy.